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Message Text

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21
ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-02 LAB-04

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-01

TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 /088 W
---------- 064836
R 070858Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY BERN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 363

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, SZ
SUBJECT: COUNTERVAILING DUTY COMPLAINTS INVOLVING CHEESE FROM SWITZERLAND; SWISS IMPORT QUOTA FOR US BEEF

REF: A) BERN 817; B) STATE 4739

1. AMBASSADOR KLAUS JACOBI OF SWISS DIVISION OF COMMERCE REVIEWED WITH E/C COUNSELOR MARCH 6 HIS CONVERSATIONS IN WASHINGTON WEEK OF FEBRUARY 24.

2. IN CONNECTION CHEESE COUNTERVAILING DUTY CASE, JACOBI SAID DIVISION OF COMMERCE HAD DECIDED NOT EXTEND AT THIS TIME SPECIAL ANNUAL SWISS 300 TON IMPORT QUOTA FOR SPECIAL CUTS OF US BEEF WHEN PRESENT QUOTA EXPIRES JUNE 30. IMPORTERS OF SPCIAL US BEEF WILL BE SO INFORMED SHORTLY.

3. JACOBI RECALLED THAT SPECIAL QUOTA FOR US BEEF ORIGINALLY ESTABLISHED IN 1967 WHEN US GAVE SPECIAL CONSIDERATION TO HIGH-VALUE CHEESE FROM SWITZERLAND UNDER IMPORT QUOTAS. HE DID NOT FEEL THAT BEEF QUOTA COULD BE EXTENDED WHEN PENDING COUNTERVAILING CASE
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POSED THREAT TO SWISS CHEESE EXPORTS TO US.

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4. EMBOFF RECALLED THAT SOME DOMESTIC BEEF INTERESTS AS WELL AS OTHER MEAT SUPPLYING COUNTRIES HAD OBJECTED TO SPECIAL QUOTA AVAILABLE ONLY TO US AND WONDERED IF DECISION WITHOLD EXTENSION COULD SUBSEQUENTLY BE REVERSED. JACOBI SAID HE HAD MADE IT VERY CLEAR TO DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE THAT BEEF QUOTA WOULD BE EXTENDED AS SOON AS COUNTERVAILING CASE SATISFACTORILY SETTLED.

5. JACOBI ALSO REVIEWED FOR EMBOFF BASIC ELEMENTS OF SWISS POSITION THAT SWISS CHEESE EXPORTS TO US REPRESENT UNIQUE CASE SINCE NO SPECIAL EXPORT SUBSIDIES INVOLVED, SWISS CHEESE EXPORTSTO US ARE HIGH-PRICED, AND US MARKET SHARE FOR CHEESE FROM SWITZERLAND HAS BEEN STEADILY DECLINING AT EXPENSE OF SWISS-TYPE CHEESE FROM OTHER SUPPLIERS.

6. JACOBI ALSO REFERRED BRIEFLY TO POSSIBLE ACTION AT LATER DATE (IF US TOOK CHEESE COUNTERVAILING ACTION) AGAINST IMPORTS OF TABACCO FROM US NOTING CERTAIN SIMILARITIES BETWEEN SWISS MILK SUPPORT PROGRAM AND US PRICE SUPPORTS FOR TOBACCO.

7. IN CLOSING, JACOBI REITERATED HIS HOPE THAT MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY SOLUTION TO CHEESE CASE COULD BE FOUND BY TREASURY AND SAID SWISS PRODUCERS AND GOVERNMENT WANTED TO COOPERATIVE AS POSSIBLE IN WORKING TOWARD THIS END.
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